



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN AUSTIN BROTHEL CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that seven members of an Austin-based prostitution ring involving undocumented aliens were sentenced this morning in federal court.

United States District Judge Sam Sparks sentenced:

- Juan Balderas-Orosco to 80 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release. On February 9, 2007, Balderas-Orosco pleaded guilty to one count each of interstate transportation for prostitution, conspiracy to smuggle, transport and harbor illegal aliens for financial gain and harboring aliens for prostitution.
- Mohammad Arami (aka "Mo") to 27 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release. Arami was also fined \$64,000. On February 9, 2007, Arami pleaded guilty to one count of money laundering. As part of his plea agreement, Arami agreed to forfeit a residential rental property—the location of the brothel operation—at 9807 FM Road 969.
- David Mendoza-Magana to 60 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release. On February 2, 2007, Mendoza pleaded guilty to interstate transportation for prostitution, conspiracy to smuggle, transport and harbor illegal aliens for financial gain and harboring aliens for prostitution.
- Miguel Magdaleno-Gomez to 33 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release. On February 2, 2007, Magdaleno-Gomez pleaded guilty to conspiracy to smuggle, transport and harbor illegal aliens for financial gain.
- Juan Magdaleno-Gomez to 33 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release. On February 2, 2007, Magdaleno-Gomez pleaded guilty to conspiracy to smuggle, transport and harbor illegal aliens for financial gain.

Three other co-defendants have been convicted and are awaiting sentencing: Maria Camacho-Teran (aka "Sandra") scheduled to be sentenced at 9:00am on April 19, 2007; Francisco Castillo-Celaya is scheduled to be sentenced 1:30pm on April 26, 2007; and, Jose Cedeno-Zetina (aka "Antonio Cedeno-Zetina") is scheduled to be sentenced at 9:00am on May 4, 2007.

Bertha Jiminez (aka "Norma"), Cecilia Maria Roberson (aka "Maria Perez" and "Lila") and Emilio Castillo-Celaya remain fugitives in this case.

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The defendants were involved in the prostitution ring from November 2002 to June 29, 2006. On June 29, 2006, law enforcement raids were conducted by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Internal Revenue Service on brothels operating in Austin, Dallas and Oklahoma City which catered to illegal aliens.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division together with assistance from local law enforcement. The case is being prosecuted on behalf of the government by Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Carruth.

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